

## Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CIA BANKROLLING  
OF ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

1. FOLLOWING ARE REACTIONS FROM TODAY'S ITALIAN PRESS ON  
STORIES CHARGING THAT CIA IS BANKROLLING ITALIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST  
POLITICAL PARTIES:

2. ALL RADIO AND TV NEWSCASTS CARRIED SUMMANRIES OF BYTIMES  
STRORY WITHOUT COMMENT, ALONG WITH DENIALS BY DC SECRETARY  
ZACCAGNINI., PRI SECRETARY BIASINI AND PSI.

3. MARINO DE MEDICI IN IL TEMPO FROM WASHINGTON: "IT REMAINS TO  
BE SEEN WHETER PRESENT DISCLOSURES REGARDING ITALY ARE EXCLUSIVE  
RESULT OF HOURNALISTIC INITIATIVE, OR WHETHER ARE WEAPON  
IN HANDS OF CIA OPPONENETS. THEY MAY BE PART OF A DELIBERATE  
PLAN INTENDED NOT ONLY TO LIMIT DRASTICALLY CIA CAPABILITY  
TO INTERVENE IN CRUCIAL INTERNATIONAL CRISES,BUT ALSO TO DAMAGE  
THOSE WHO RECEIVE COVERT AID. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LEAKS  
ARE FROM MEMBERS OF SUBCOMMITTEE PRESIDED OVER BY THOMAS MORGAN.

4. GIROLAMO MODESTI IN LA NAZIONE AND IL RESTO DEL CARLINO  
FROM WASHINGTON:" THE ALLEGATIONS SEEM TO BE TRUE AND THERE  
SEEMS TO BE NOTHING NEW IN WORLD POLITICS, PARTICULARLY IN THE  
POLITICS OF THE BIG POWERS." AFTER QUOTING NYTIMES STATEMENT  
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PAGE 02 ROME 00252 081640Z

THAT RUSSIANS ALSO HELP ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY"IN MORE SUBSTANTIAL

WAYS,"MODESTI ADDS: "UNDER THIS CLOAK OF APPARENT FAIRNESS AND IMPARTIALITY THE DISCLOSURES SEEM TO BE INTENTIONAL, AN OPERATION PLANNED AND SYNCRONIZED BY ISOLATIONIST ELEMENTS WHO ARE MOSTLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT AND THE TWO GREAT AMERICAN PAPERS, THE TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST."

5. MAURO LUCENTINI IN IL GIORNALE FROM NEW YORK: "THE FUTILITY OF CIA EFFORTS TO KEEP SECRET ANY FOREIGN INITIATIVE, EVEN THE MOST DELICATE, THE MOST LIMITED, OR THE MOST NECESSARY, HAS BEEN AGAIN CONFIRMED BY THESE DISCLOSURES. THE TWO PAPERS TALK OF ANONYMOUS SOURCES, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THESE SOURCES ARE ON THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES."

6. IL POPOLO CARRIES DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI'S DENIAL AND AN ARTICLE BY MARCELLO SPACCARELLI WHO ASSUMES DISCLOSURES ARE DELIBERATE: "IT IS AN OLD AMERICAN SYSTEM, AIMED AT SABOTAGING A DISAPPROVED POLITICAL LINE. WE MUST FORMALLY ACCEPT THIS SYSTEM. THE EXTRAORDINARY DISSEMINATION CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE LEAK CANNOT BE THE RESULT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE CAPACITIES OF SOME NEWSMEN BUT THE PRODUCT OF A GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ARE DETERMINED TO EITHER PARALYZE THE CIA OR TO HELP THE ITALIAN POLITICAL FORCES HOSTILE TO THE FORCES THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS FRIENDLY. THE SECOND HYPOTHESIS IS SUPPORTED BY SOME DETAILS OF TODAY'S DISCLOSURES AND BY THE AVALANCHE OF ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS IN IMPORTANT AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTING THE ILLUSION THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY COULD BECOME A GOOD WESTERN ALLY."

7. PAESE SERA DEVOTES NEARLY FULL INSIDE PAGE TO STORY: FRONTPAGE HEADLINE READS: "FORD DOES NOT DENY CIA CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITALIAN PARTIES." JOHN CAPPELLI FROM NEW YORK: "THE DISCLOSURES, WHICH IN AMERICA CAUSED AN EXPLOSION, HAVE ALREADY CAUSED AN INCREDIBLE US GOVERNMENT REACTION THAT MAKES THEIR EFFECT MORE DESTRUCTIVE." CAPPELLI QUOTES CBS ASSERTIONS THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE ADVOCATED THE OPERATION DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON. VOLPE

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